



## **HB 4081 Written Testimony**

February 5, 2026

Chair McLain, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Boshart Davis, and Members of the House Committee on Transportation:

My name is Ken Kubacki, and I am a Region Manager with Sundt Construction based in Portland Metro area. I have worked in and around highway construction work zones for 30 plus years, including I-5 in Portland.

I am writing to urge your support of House Bill 4081, which adds critical provisions to Oregon's existing highway work zone photo enforcement law and allows this important safety tool to be used on any of Oregon's state highway work zones, rather than the current constraints, which have made the program nearly impossible to utilize. Passing HB 4081 will better protect both highway workers and the traveling public. I respectfully ask for your "Yes" vote on this bill.

Working on the interstate, state or local routes, under traffic control, is one of the scariest tasks our employees face. Recently on one of our projects on an interstate, under a single lane closure, a member of the traveling public entered the work zone well in excess of the posted speed limit. Nearly hitting members of our crew who were fortunately shielded by a company vehicle. Had the driver entered the zone under a different trajectory, five crew members would have been hit and severely injured or killed. This was a firm reminder to never let your guard down, but most importantly to find means to get the public to slow down in our work zones.

### **Oregon Work Zone Safety Statistics**

- On Oregon state highways in 2024, there were 574 vehicle crashes in work zones, including 14 fatalities and 37 people with serious injuries.
  - This is an increase from 2023, when there were 538 vehicle crashes in work zones, and 10 fatalities
- Nationally, an estimated 898 people were killed in highway work zones, and 40,170 people were injured in 2023.

These numbers confirm a change needs to be made to ensure all those working or supporting the efforts on the roadways get home safely.

#### **Effectiveness of photo radar in work zones**

HB 4081 focuses on a proven tool – speed enforcement in construction work zones – to slow drivers down when it matters most. Photo radar laws have already been adopted in over a dozen states nationwide, with more states actively considering similar policies.

- In a national survey conducted in 2025, 60 percent of highway construction firms reported having at least one car crash in their work zones during the past year, demonstrating the ongoing risk our industry faces.
- States that have adopted similar policies have experienced reductions in work zone crashes and fatalities, including nearly immediate reduction in vehicle speeds while cameras are present.

HB 4081 is about protecting both workers and the traveling public in highway work zones. For workers, lower speeds mean fewer near misses, more reaction time, and a better chance of going home safely at the end of each shift. For drivers and passengers, safer work zones reduce rear-end crashes, lane-change collisions, and accidents involving work vehicles, construction equipment, or barriers, which are common in work zones.

For these reasons, my personal experience working in highway work zones, the upward trend in work zone crashes and fatalities in Oregon, and the proven safety benefits of photo radar in work zones, I urge you to support House Bill 4081.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and your commitment to improving safety on Oregon's highways for both construction workers and drivers.

Sincerely,



Ken Kubacki

Vice President Northwest Region Manager

Sundt Construction